



THE DIXIE NEWS

Publication of Dixie African Violet Society (www.DAVS.org)
Affiliate of African Violet Society of America, Inc. (www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org)
Mary Lou Harden, Editor (mlhard@verizon.net)

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President's Message

Betty Ferguson

Hi again, Dixie members and friends!



What? A year has passed since our Little Rock AVSA Convention? Hard to believe. And the 2023 AVSA convention in Atlanta is right around the corner! A special thanks to you Georgia folks for all the behind the scenes work you're busy with for the convention and thanks to Dixie members in other states, too. Of course, you'll make it a success. Years ago, my favorite part of conventions was (You probably guessed it.) the sales room where I was a most willing participant (buyer) and money spender (Sometimes being single has its benefits.). Of second importance was the showroom where I drooled over y'all's plants and designs. Now, years later, you—my friends—are my very, very favorite part of conventions.

Speaking of conventions, Robbie McMeel and Michael Jackson, and I think Becky McMeel, too, have been busy planning for a fall Dixie convention for us at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Robbie called a March 3 officers' Zoom meeting to advise us of their current plans and to seek suggestions. After officers' suggestions Michael has presented a choice of three optional dates in late September and October to the

botanical garden. Now, we're waiting on them. We've tried to plan around local shows the best we can. Hotel arrangements and meals will be on our own, but Michael will have suggestions for us. A primary objective is to spread responsibilities for the convention among us all. We won't be burdening the Birmingham club. If you have a special skill or area of interest to contribute, please advise Robbie at rmcmeel@bellsouth.net or (985) 855-0439 asap. Our Dixie nominating committee met via Zoom in January. They are offering the following slate of officers for election at our fall convention.

For President, Robbie McMeel
For Vice President, Becky McMeel
For Recording Secretary, Phillis Hinkle
For Corresponding Secretary, Jo Schrimsher
For Treasurer, Johnnie Berry

I think each of these members is a good choice for their proposed office. They all have a history of reliability and have demonstrated a love for Dixie. Current officers will continue in our roles until the 2024 convention. Personally, it will be time for someone else to take a turn as president, and I feel confident that Robbie will do a fantastic job. I've held the office since Lynne Wilson became very ill in 2019. Even though I've seen very little of most of you due to covid messing things up for us, you've each been very much in my heart and on my mind. And even though your officers haven't been very visible either, we've

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President's Message, continued from p.1

each been actively working to keep Dixie healthy and prospering into the future.

Stay blessed until we all meet again in the fall.

Betty



Sundown Trail
by Wilhelmina Allen



Streptocarpus 'Salmon Sunset'
by Terry Jordan

**DON'T FORGET TO
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

(Membership Application on p. 18)

Please send check payable to DAVS to
 Johnnie Berry, Membership Secretary
 287 Fennel Way, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331
 johnniepearl@comcast.net



JOIN THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA

An AVSA membership offers the following benefits:

- Six full-color issues annually (64 pages each) of the African Violet Magazine (AVM) filled with great growing information
- Regular columns include
 - For Beginners
 - Question Box
 - In Search of New Violets
 - Gesneriad Advice
 - Registration of new cultivars
 - Thinking Small
 - Coming Events

The AVM gives members continuous information on the latest developments in the African violet world. Commercial members advertise and sell the latest and most popular violets and products. Each issue contains commercial ads as well as an Index of Advertisers. Members have access to this information on AVSA's website www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org.

AVSA holds annual conventions in various regions of the country. All members may participate in these exciting events which feature judged shows open to all registered AVSA members. After judging, shows are open to the public. Informative presentations are made by experts in African violet culture. Commercial members also display their newest introductions and have booths where plants and plant-related products are sold.

Individual Membership in AVSA is \$35 per year. Register online or send check with contact information to:

AVSA
P.O. Box 22417
Beaumont, TX 77720

Last, but not least, SUPPORT AVSA. AVSA needs the support of its individual members, its affiliates and commercial members. **Donations can be made online or mailed to:** AVSA Office, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720. Dixie encourages all Dixie affiliates and members to support AVSA. AVSA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

Donate online or by mail to: **AVSA Office, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont TX 77720.**



Workshops and Speakers will include:



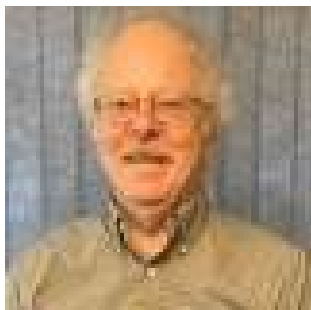
**Elmer Godney
Brenham, TX**

**Creating a Small
Interpretive Plant
Arrangement**

Elmer has been growing African violets for about 30 years. He is currently a

member of Spring Branch African Violet Club (Houston), Lone Star African Violet Council, and is president of the Central Texas Judge's Council. He is a Master Judge and AVSA Teacher. Elmer made his first design for a local show because he wanted to participate in the show but did not have plants to enter. Since then, he has successfully won awards at the local, regional, and national levels.

Have you ever thought about entering a design in a show but didn't know where to start? Have your design skills gotten rusty? Then, this **hands-on workshop** is for you. We will begin with a short discussion of the elements and principles of design. Then you will be given materials to create your own small interpretive plant arrangement. All materials and the live plant are yours to keep. The completed designs will be anonymously displayed to the convention registrants to vote on and prizes will be awarded.



Jim Vlasic
Eden Prairie, MN

Growing and Hybridizing Primulinas

Jim has been hybridizing Primulinas for a little over three years now and has made over 30 crosses to date. His first hybrid to bloom was *P. gueilinensis* x *P. brachytricha* and it was quite stunning with its pure white flower and a splash of lemon yellow in the upper throat. It is named Primulina 'JV Snow White'.

Jim is making hybrids with his hybrids, and he will discuss the progress he has made through May of 2023. Currently, Jim is concentrating on creating Primulina hybrids with interesting patterns on the leaves, flowers that are not lavender, and reducing the overall size of the plants.

He has made many hybrids with *P. yungfuensis* as a parent and will discuss some of the characteristics it imparts to its progeny. Some of the current and newer species that are available in the US will also be reviewed.



Stephen Covolo-Hudson
Springville, CA

Hybridizing African Violets

Steve modestly describes himself as "just someone doing something called hybridizing African violets and Streptocarpus." His goal is to create the perfect package hybrid for the show grower and the home hobbyist. Steve's plants all have the prefix "Steffano's."

Steve will take you through the steps of plant sex specific to African violets and how to use this knowledge in hybridizing.



Mark Romansky
Henderson, NV

The Magic of Moss

Mark Romansky has been around African Violets for over 50 years. Having parents who were African violet enthusiasts, vacations were planned around greenhouses and growers. Caught early by the orchid bug, Mark was a judge for the American Orchid Society and has judged nationally and internationally, including 2 World Orchid Conferences. Mark speaks frequently on topics of horticulture, reptiles, parrots, rescue, and re-homing, and accommodating special needs birds.

Recently Mark completed the AVSA judging workshop and is a student judge. Mark is the Vice President of the Glitter Gulch African Violet Growers in Las Vegas, NV.

Whether it is a zen garden in Japan, or moss-covered pots in an antique English greenhouse, there is something magical about MOSS! Take a fascinating trip, 470 million years in the making!

The Magic of Moss will discuss the oldest living plants on earth, including their biology, growth, cultivation, propagation and use in African violet shows, in dish gardens and terrariums.



**Rich Follett
Strasburg, VA**

**Encouraging the
Next Generation of
AV Growers and
Club Members**

Rich grew African violets for many years and then drifted away from the hobby. Now, what is old is new again and as he returns to growing these plants, he finds there is always more to learn and never a bad time to return to the basics and refresh our skills.

One of the most pressing problems that AVSA and affiliate clubs face is attracting and retaining younger enthusiasts. The plain truth is that the average age of AV enthusiasts worldwide is going UP every year! This fun and informative session will provide some creative strategies for reversing the trend and securing a future for the AVs we love. Q & A and giveaways will follow the presentation – something for everyone!

**BECOME A DIXIE MEMBER
DIXIE AVS DUES**

Individual	\$15.00 Yr
Individual Life	\$175.00
Affiliate Club	\$20.00 Yr.
Commercial	\$25.00 Yr.
Dual (2 at one address)	\$20.00 Yr.

Mail application (**p.18**) or a copy with check payable to Dixie AVS to:
Johnnie Berry, Membership Secretary
287 Fennel Way, SW
Atlanta, GA 30331
johnniepearl@comcast.net



**GEORGIA STATE
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

by Phillis Hinkle
pchinkle@bellsouth.net



Greetings from the Peach State,

We are very busy here in Atlanta! In case you didn't know, the AVSA 2023 convention is being held in Atlanta in about a month. Our club has many who are participating in several areas. I'm the goodie bag chairman. If your club would like to contribute an item it will be welcomed. Our club is preparing a small sweet treat bag, and the Birmingham club has sent pens. Small notepads will be arriving soon as well. These items can be sent to Johnnie Berry. Her address is in this newsletter.

Our own club is preparing for our first AVSA-judged show since the pandemic. It will be a fall show on September 23. We have several new members that are very eager and are growing lovely plants. This will be a stretch for us, and we are looking forward to it.

We have had programs so far this year on trailers, repotting which is always good for new members, and a great program on design via zoom with Becky McMeel. This month our resident gesneriad guru, Kathy Spissman, will be presenting something interesting with gesneriads.

Looking forward to seeing many of you soon.

WELCOME TO DIXIE!

by Johnnie Berry,
Treasurer and Membership Chair
johnniepearl@comcast.net

New Members

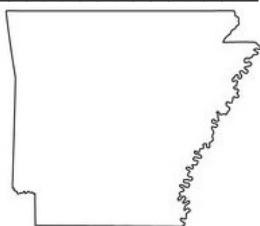
Blooming Violets of Marion County, FL
Leslie Boyd, Altoona, AL
Sandi Soto, Tampa, FL
Laura Aplin, Slocomb, AL

Renewals

Memphis AVS
Marian & Greg Zoller
Janet Castiglione
Tampa AVS
Robbie & Becky McMeel
Barbara McGrath
Carolee Carter
Sandra Campbell
Mary Halbert
Martha Cranford
Mary Corondan
Linda Price
Betty Ferguson
Cathy S. Akers
LA Lagniappe AVS
Cathy Carter
Keitha Glaves
NASA AVS
Rome AVC
First Lakeland AVS
Genelle Armstrong
Peggy Riding
Howard Kogan
James Matula
John Keyege

ARKANSAS STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Betty Ferguson
bettywithviolets@gmail.com



The Central Arkansas club was invited by Plantopia garden center in North Little Rock to present a seminar, "African Violets: What Are They?" We chose our regular April meeting day and in lieu of our meeting for the seminar. Danny Tidwell spoke, and club members provided the show and tell plants, which included other

gesneriads. The day was beautiful and the weather for an outdoor seminar were perfect.

Our audience of 41 was attentive and interactive. We even gained a new member right on the spot. Of course, I added a blurb about Dixie with an invitation to join and to attend our fall convention.



CAAVS presents at Plantopia

I was asked to present our March program on plant communication and gesneriad companion plantings. Franki Taylor contributed terrariums to show that gesneriads appreciate being planted with friends. Carol Wilson presented a really informative program in February on AV tools we can find at dollar type stores. She showed numerous inexpensive tools she has picked up and gave ideas of how to incorporate them into our toolboxes.



We'll be holding a spring sale in our regular pavilion at the park. Our treasurer/advertising member, Alice Brown, does an outstanding job of informing the community of upcoming events. We have set a date and secured a room with kitchen for our fall show. I hope it doesn't conflict with our Dixie convention, but if it does, I'll be seeing my Dixie friends that weekend!

FLORIDA STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Carolee Carter
caroleeviolets@gmail.com



Here's what's happening
in Florida:

African Violet Council of Florida

The Council is planning a plant sale at the Beardall Senior Center in Orlando on Saturday, May 6, from 9 am to 3 pm. We will have plants for sale, mainly African violets, but there will also be many of the other gesneriads. We will also have all kinds of supplies including potting mix, perlite, pots and lots of other goodies.

The Council is also planning a Judges' School in October. We are awaiting confirmation of the date and location. Some members question why they should attend a judges' school since they are not planning to be judges. The reason is simple: you learn a lot in Judges' School about how to show plants to their best advantage and what the judges look for in prize winning plants. Even if you don't plan to be a judge, you can audit the school and reap the benefits of hearing Master Judge/Teacher Jim Boyer, of Palm Harbor, FL, discuss what makes a prize-winning plant. Knowing Jim, this will be a fun-filled day for all.

Blooming Violets of Marion County

The Blooming Violets of Marion County are strong in spirit, but have had a few set-backs this Spring! We continue to struggle with having a consistent space to meet. Vice President Carolee Carter found the sheriff's substation for us to use after halfway through the year we couldn't meet at our original spot- only for us to then be booted out for the sheriff's office to be used as an early polling place for a special election in our county, being held in March and May!

Luckily ZOOM was available to use for those two months, but nothing compares to the delicious food, delightful faces and raffles and fellowship you have at a face-to-face meeting.

In April we had a delightful Spring meeting consisting of members bringing in decorative containers and a violet, then planting them and showing them off for a Spring decoration. We had a lot of fun seeing the pretty and whimsical combinations and hearing the stories of where the containers came from.

The club takes a hiatus for June and July and will start up again in August.

President Laura Perdomo looks forward to attending the AVSA National Convention as a vendor with her husband Frank and The Peacock Cottage.

Bloomin' Violets & Gesneriads of Palm Beach

The Bloomin' Violets & Gesneriads of Palm Beach meets monthly on the third Saturday of each month. Meetings start at 10 AM, and are held at the Palm Springs Public Library, 217 Cypress Lane, Palm Springs, FL 33461. The club has 29 members, and has programs at every meeting, such as Creating Dish Gardens, Repotting, Building LED gardens, Leaf Propagation, and Leaf Exchange. Right now, members are getting ready for the Annual Mounts Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale which will be held April 29th--30th. The BVGPB will have an African violet sale in Exhibit Hall B. This year, there are also plans for field trips to nurseries and growers.

Mounts Botanical Garden will have its annual Spring Plant Festival and Sale in July – July 3-8, 2023. Besides a wide variety of plants, The Bloomin' Violets & Gesneriads of Palm Beach will have an African violet sale. Hours are Saturday from 9 AM to 4 PM, and Sunday from 9 AM to 3 PM. The gardens are located at 531 N Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415. (561-233-1757).

Central Florida African Violet Society

The Central Florida AVS recently held their first sale/display in several years. It was a huge success. Violet lovers seemed eager to look at and purchase new violets to improve their collections. We had four new members join the club after the sale. People seem eager to participate in group events once again.

Our April meeting included a presentation by Tammy Cambre on how to remove suckers from a plant. She demonstrated how to pot up the new plantlets and how to evaluate the mother plant



The next sale will be in the fall. The 3rd weekend in October is our Fall Extravaganza sponsored by the City of Lakeland and the Presbyterian Church in the Highlands on the same weekend. Both of these events have great turnouts and are great opportunities to educate people.

Our club has always strived to educate and share the love of growing African violets to everyone. This is still our primary goal. My hope it that is remains that way for ever.

For more information on our club and events, contact Mary Jane Dilorenzo at 863-637-1517.



Heart of Jacksonville AVS

At their March 2023 meeting, Heart of Jacksonville AVS had a hands-on potting session making dish gardens. The club provided everything (terrarium plants, soil and saucers). Members were allowed 3 plants. If they wanted more and everyone already had their 3, then they could purchase extra plants. Members brought mini violets they had gotten in a previous program. Everyone was thrilled to take their miniature landscape home. Many of them (about half) ended up in our Display, which was a week later, and the public really enjoyed seeing them. Try this with your group, they will love it!

First Lakeland African Violet Society

First Lakeland African Violet Society was incorporated in 1978. Our membership has changed over the years, but we have been blessed with good growers and talented designers.

Since the Pandemic we have been lucky to participate in several annual sales that have benefited our club. First is our Display the 2nd weekend in February at the Christ Lutheran Church. We always have a good turnout and sell a lot of our plants. Second is the City of Lakeland's Spring Obsession, the second Saturday in March. This is always a busy sale. We sell almost everything we bring, meet new growers and gain a few new members. Both of these events are wonderful and fun.

Our members are very generous and help the club succeed in these sales.





Tampa African Violet Society (TAVS)

The Tampa club held its 47th annual show, "VIOLET INVASION," in February. It was one of our best and most successful shows. We received AVSA's top award – the SSAA – and we were pleased to have three AVSA collections and two Dixie collections!

We then participated in the Spring Plant Festival at the University of South Florida Botanical Gardens. The Gardens also sponsors a Fall Plant Festival, and we have been participating in both events for many years. We team up with the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society and share space with them. The Festival is a two-day event—Saturday and Sunday. This year, the attendance on Saturday was above 5,000 people!

We recently held elections and now have new officers: Mary Beth Bryant is president, Celeste Christman is vice-president, Lynn Bandy is secretary and Glenn Shelton is treasurer.



Colonial
Goondiwindi
AVA of Australia

**LOUISIANA DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
May 2023**



by Becky McMeel
beckymcmeel@gmail.com

Louisiana Lagniappe AVS

It seems as if spring is finally here and no more chances of a freeze (fingers crossed). AVSA convention is right around the corner and I am so looking forward to seeing my violet friends again! My violets seem to know it is spring as well, and are in bloom or fixing to bust out in flower. Yay!

January saw LLAVS having a multi-topic program. Program chair Mary Jo Pohlig demonstrated how to correct crown discoloration, gave a demo on dealing with long necks, and gave a reminder about testing for INSV.

The February program was a soil swap. Each member brought a small zip bag of their soil mix with a recipe attached. Each member was assigned a number corresponding with a bag of soil which they took home. The member read the soil recipe and any questions were answered.

LLAVS has been meeting regularly and spreading the word about violets. The club sold plants at the LSU Spring Garden sale in March and was sold out by 3 o'clock of day 1. People love their violets. Of course, club members understand that the majority of them will be gone in a matter of weeks. Oh well! Enjoy them while you got 'em! It is an opportunity to connect with the public and recruit new members,



and make a little money for members and the club.

April saw the club welcoming back two members who decided it was time to get back to violets. Welcome back, Dana and Margaret! The program was a

discussion on 2 trailers with open centers (see pictures).

Suggestions were pinching growth tips, putting in a larger pan-pot for crown tips to root, or snipping flower tips to the edge of the pot and pot up the babies.



It was mentioned that Glenda Williams has a web site with information on trailers.

There was also a discussion on sporting plants, and the pros and cons of naming it, bloom boosters, and changing fertilizers.

LLAVS Fall show and sale will be a one-day show on October 28, 2023, at the Baton Rouge Garden Center. Theme is "A Violet Spooktacular". Committees were assigned and next month, set up tasks will be assigned. Members were reminded to have their registration lists completed and turned in beforehand to ensure a speedier table set up. On that note, the May program will be "Understanding the Classification Form" to better aid newer members. Design classes and criteria were discussed, too. Members were reminded of the project plants being grown for the show.

Acadiana African Violet Society had an active late winter and early spring. In February we had an informative meeting discussing quarantine procedures and attracting pollinators to our gardens. March saw a hands-on program on the basics of hybridizing and caring for ZZ plants.

April's meeting was all about managing the size of our collections and Episcia care. Everyone was able to take home newly rooted cuttings of Episcia "Pink Panther". We handed out starter plants of our project plant Bob Serbin. This was for new members and those whose leaves didn't make it. We also had our last planning meeting for our informational and plant sale booth at a

local garden festival, the Sunset Herb and Garden Festival. It will be held on May 6th in the nearby town of Sunset, Louisiana.

You may have noticed that in addition to our African violet program, we also have a second short program on another houseplant or gardening topic. We do this to provide extra content for those who have broader gardening interests along with African violets and to attract and keep new members. There are other local garden clubs but they tend to be social and civic organizations rather than having an emphasis on gardening. While our main emphasis is on violets this other gardening program helps fill a need for our members and community.

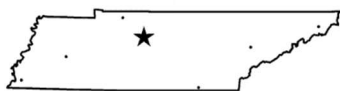
Till next time. . .Happy Growing! ☺

Becky McMeel, Louisiana Director

TENNESSEE STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Marian Zoller

marieregz@gmail.com



Spring has sprung and not a minute too soon. We have survived a particularly hard winter for our outside plants and shrubs. So, we are very happy to turn to our favorite inside plants-all those violets and their family.

The Memphis African Violet Society has been busy trying to improve our violets with informative meetings and fun activities. The informative meetings over the past year or so include "How to Groom African Violets" and "Growing Mini and Semi-minis" (Brenda Brasfield), "Sinningias" (Larry Force, a very successful hybridizer of both daffodils and sinningias), "How to Control Pests" (Martha Howe), "Leaf Propagation and How to Repot" (Geneva Stagg), "How to Grow Strels" (Marian Zoller), "The Right Size Pot for the Right Plant" (Carolyn Walker), and "Episcia" (Kathy Hildebrand).

Our fun activities have included a Chinese Auction, Plant Bingo, and a plant sale which we held in April. Also, each meeting we have about an hour of fellowship that includes great food.

We are in hopes that several of our members will be able to attend the DAVS Convention in Birmingham. I hope other clubs in Tennessee and throughout Dixie are doing well.



The Gesneriad Society will have its 2023 Convention, "Virginia is for Gesneriad Lovers" at The Westin Richmond, 6631 W. Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, July 3-8. Speakers will include:

Tim Alderton – Not Just Houseplants!



Gesneriads are so often thought of as only being grown as houseplants or in a greenhouse, but they are so much more. Almost everywhere in the country, there are gesneriads hardy in gardens, not just the house. With some focus on plants hardy in the upper south, others may find that there are still many to try in other regions of the United States. His presentation will highlight some to try wherever you may live. During his 16 years at JC Raulston Arboretum, he has cultivated thousands of plants including many gesneriads that have proven to be hardy in the Southeast. Some genera that have proven hardy and should be tried more often are species and selections of *Sinningia*, *Hemiboea*, *Oreocharis* and *Seemannia*, to name a few. Different genera growing in sun to shade, wet to dry, rosettes filling crevices, large clumps in borders, and ground covers carpeting open shade represent many diverse gesneriads in the garden at the JC Raulston Arboretum and may work in your own gardens.

John Clark – Updates on the Classification of Neotropical Gesneriaceae: Field-based Observations from a Lab-based Perspective



John L. Clark's presentation will focus on recent research and discoveries on the taxonomy and evolutionary biology of the Gesneriaceae. Some groups have remained taxonomically stable, and others are expected to change. What is noteworthy is

that some large groups of Gesneriaceae, such as *Besleria*, are not likely to have any significant taxonomic changes. In contrast, some small groups, such as *Alsobia* and *Codananthus*, are expected to change based on evolutionary-based studies. Additional upcoming research will be shared, ranging from a recently discovered genus of Gesneriaceae from the Andean foothills of eastern Ecuador and documentation of a Gesneriaceae hotspot on an isolated mountain in western Haiti. John will share photographic and video footage from exploratory research expeditions to highlight and explain "eld-based observations from a lab-based perspective.

Prasanna Naibi Shrugeshwara – Gesneriad explorations and evolutionary insights from the Indian subcontinent



Tropical forests of the Indian subcontinent harbor a diverse flora which is attributed to its long and complex biogeographic history. Understory herbs like gesneriads often receive less attention from botanists and

conservationists alike, although they are more prone to extinction due to their unique niche and habitat requirements. In India, the Gesneriaceae is represented by one-third of old-world genera and more than 130 species. In this talk, Prasanna will provide a glimpse of the rich flora of Gesneriaceae in the Indian subcontinent and highlight some of the earliest attempts to collect and collate gesneriads of India. He will also present the latest update from recent phylogenetic studies and enumerate the evolutionary patterns uncovered in the genus *Didymocarpus* and related genera. Prasanna hopes to show and highlight that a small understory herb can add critical insights to our

understanding of the unique biodiversity of tropical forests, especially in the Indian subcontinent.

Terri Vicenzi – *Smithiantha*: The Queen of the Rhizomatous Gesneriads



The genus *Smithiantha* is often overlooked by gesneriad growers because it is a seasonal grower and bloomer. This is unfortunate since by taking just a small extra effort to accommodate the needs of this Northern Hemisphere gesneriad, growers will be

rewarded with spectacular bloom during a time of the year (in the Northern Hemisphere, at least) when many gesneriads are not at their best. Terri will give us an overview of the many species, hybrids, and intergenerics available in cultivation and will provide us with techniques for successful cultivation and propagation, and she will also review the emerging trends in *Smithiantha* hybridization.

For complete information, visit their website: gesneriadsociety.org

DIXIE AVS AFFILIATES REPORT Second Quarter 2023

by Robbie McMeel
rmcmeel@bellsouth.net

Happy Spring to everyone!!! With all of the show notifications, we can tell that spring is in the air. We all had a crazy winter this year and hopefully Mother Nature will settle down into her normal pattern. I know for me, she threw me a curve ball with the late freeze and zapped all of my vegetable plants, so that all needed to be replanted. I hope a lot of you did not have the same issue with your gardens.

I hope to be posting many show winners in the Dixie Classes from your show. In the past, one needed to send in the show schedule to me along with the money for the ribbons. In order to help streamline this, any club that will have Dixie classes in their show can email me a copy of your schedule, this will help save your club postage

fees and time to get it to the post office. I hope that we will have a great showing of Dixie Registered Plants in the collections. If you don't have the Dixie Ribbons, please contact me, so that a set can be sent to your show chairs. Cost of the ribbons is \$10.00 per set and this is only to cover the postage to get them to you. Dixie has rosettes for Best and 2nd Best Standard Collection and Best and 2nd Best Collection in the Semi/Miniature Collection. In the future, please try to grow Dixie Collections for both. There are a lot of great Dixie registered plants to choose from. To find out what they are, go to Dixie's website and there is a PDF file with all of the Dixie registered plants. If you are unable to get this list on the website, please let me know and I will be more than happy to get you a list in the mail. If there is any plant that you would like to show in a Dixie class and it has not been registered with Dixie, please contact me and we will see what can be done with getting the plant registered.

If any affiliate has any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Meanwhile, I'm pleased to report that the Tampa African Violet Society had a Best and Second Best Dixie Collection in their annual show in February. The winners were:

TAMPA AVS

Best DAVS Standard Collection

Won by Sandi Soto:

"Buckeye Exotic Dancer"

"Cajun's Fascinating Fury"

"Suncoast Lavender Silk"

2nd Best DAVS Standard Collection

Won by Mary Lou Harden:

"Hunter's Tranquility"

"Suncoast Lavender Silk"

"Buckeye Seductress"

Let's keep Dixie in all of our shows.

Respectfully and keep up the good growing,

Robbie McMeel, DAVS Affiliates Chair

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Include your name, name of the AVSA-affiliated club holding the show, dates of the show, your complete address (NO P.O. Boxes), and daytime phone number.

FROM THE DAVS AWARDS COMMITTEE

Marian & Greg Zoller

marigregz@gmail.com

Hello to all of our Dixie members and friends. Halleluia!! It is going to happen this fall. After years of drought, we are going to have a Dixie Convention this year in Birmingham, Alabama.

Hopefully all of you are suffering the same withdrawal symptoms as we are and are anxious to get those special plants on the tables for all to see. And after the oohing and ahing is over, everyone will want to see the rosette next to their plants and, of course, the cash in the envelope that comes to a winner.

We are very anxious to be able to fill that cash envelope with as much as possible to reward the winners. We would love to make those rewards as large as possible after all these years of not having a convention.

So we ask for your help to rejuvenate the awards fund and provide the means to fill those envelopes as full as possible. That can only happen with your help **and that help means a donation to the**

awards fund. We don't have a lot of time before the convention, so please sit down today and make out a check to DAVS AWARDS.

You can send your donation to:

Marian and Greg Zoller
4815 Oak Lane Cove
Arlington, Tn. 38002

We appreciate your consideration. Until we see you at the convention, we remain

Sincerely

Marian and Greg Zoller

**COPY DEADLINE
FOR AUGUST ISSUE
JULY 15**



Colonial Jubilee 150
AVA of Australia

**DON'T FORGET TO
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!
(Membership Application on p. 18)**

Please send check payable to DAVS to
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johnniepearl@comcast.net

Gesneriad Birds and Bees Trivia QUIZ with Puzzle



by Betty
Ferguson

bettywithviolets@gmail.com

1. Pistol packing mama is a mnemonic for _____.
2. Underground storage organs that resemble worms or pinecones found on some gesneriads: _____.
3. Male flower sperm is called: _____.
4. Plants that were started by asexual propagation and are genetically identical to each other: _____.
5. Stay-men is a mnemonic for _____.
6. New crowns growing between leaves of African violets: _____.
7. Gesneriads are sometimes called "perfect flowers" because each flower has both male and female organs. Our AVSA Handbook uses a more technical term for perfect flowers, which is:
 - a. monocious
 - b. bisexual
 - c. dioceous
 - d. LBGTQ+
8. The offspring of a plant is called a mutant or _____ when it exhibits a sudden, marked change from its parents.
9. _____ is the act of transferring pollen from the male "anther" to the female "stigma" of a flower to make seeds and enable reproduction.
10. Gesneriads belong to the same scientific order as:
 - a. honeysuckle
 - b. mint
 - c. begonia
 - d. fuchsia

Complete the Crossword Puzzle below:

Common Sense African Violet Judging Guide for Point Scoring*

by Kenneth Barbi, Master AVSA Judge

Have you ever wondered how AVSA judges can walk into a show and pick the winners so easily? Well, it takes skill and years of training - - and a good measure of **common sense**!

Plant Size:

Standard plants must be greater than 8 inches in diameter (if less, deduct **up to 3 points**).

Semiminiature plants must be 8 inches or less in diameter (if greater, they are **eliminated from consideration**). Pot ratio does not apply.

Miniature plants must be 6 inches or less in diameter (if greater, they are **eliminated from consideration**). Pot ratio does not apply.

Trailers (under form) must have 3 crowns with at least 1 crown blooming (if only 2 crowns, deduct **11 points**; if only 1 crown, deduct **22 points**).

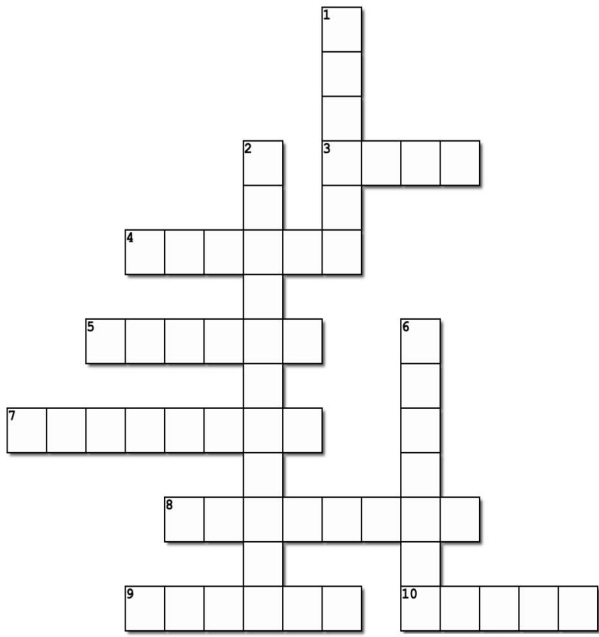
Standard, Miniature, and Semiminiature Plants

Symmetry:

Deduct **up to 3 points** for each instance of:
Gaps or spaces between the leaves or rows of leaves;
Breaks in the symmetry of the leaf pattern;
Uneven distribution of foliage

Condition (Cultural Perfection or Grooming):

Spent blossom **½ point** per blossom
Limp, damaged, marred, discolored or faded blossoms, deduct **up to ½ point** for each
Marred, broken, dead, etc.;, petiole and peduncle stubs, suckers not completely removed, smaller leaves, dust, soil or traces of spray, deduct **up to 1 point**
Over or under potted, long neck, plant not centered or standard plants less than 8 inches, deduct **up to 3 points**.
If miniature and semiminiature plants are more than 6 inches or 8 inches respectively, they are **eliminated**



Across

- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Down

- 1.
- 2.
- 6.

(Answers on page 23)



Humako Tineke
AVA of Australia photo

from consideration).

Suckers, if present, cause the plant to be eliminated from consideration

Quantity of Bloom:

Blossom count too low, deduct proportional amount of points - - if plant should have 30 blossoms and only has 15, deduct 12 ½ points out of 25.

Size and type of bloom:

Deduct up to 5 points for lack of size according to variety
Deduct ½ point for each type of blossom not constant or true to variety

Color of bloom:

Deduct up to 10 points for wrong hue or value
Deduct ½ point for each solid color instead of multicolor blossom
Deduct 10 points if blossom color is completely different

Trailers

Form:

Trailers must have 3 crowns (if 2 crowns deduct 11 points; if 1 crown deduct 22 points)

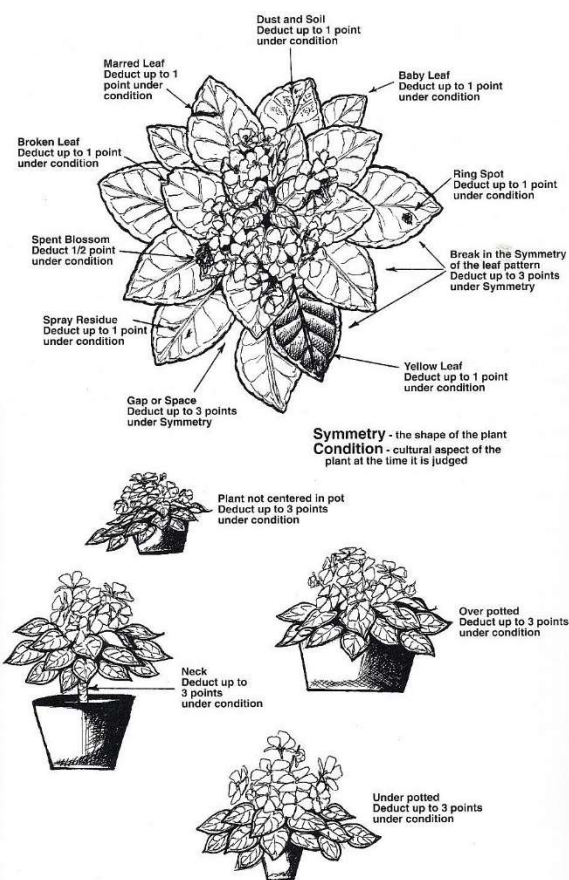
Blossoms not on every crown, deduct a reasonable number of points such as: if one crown has no blossoms and the blossom point score is 25 points, take 8 points off. Blossoms not evenly distributed on all 3 main crowns, deduct a reasonable number of points.

As of: April 19, 2023 - Source: May, 2022, AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges

* This article and the accompanying photograph demonstrating the process for Judging the Show Plant, are available on Dixie's website, davs.org. The photograph was published in the November-December 1998 *African Violet Magazine*.

JUDGING THE SHOW PLANT

Compiled by Bill Foster and Mary Ann Corrigan



46 AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 1998

the other Gesneriads:

by Mary Lou Harden
mlhard@verizon.net

LESSER KNOWN & GROWN GESNERIADS

Everyone has a favorite – a favorite movie, a favorite food or dessert, a favorite color, car, pet, song, etc. And for everyone who grows any kinds of plants, there's usually a favorite. In the Gesneriad world, the African violet is the worldwide favorite. However, if you're a member of a Gesneriad club or have attended a Gesneriad show where you've seen some outstandingly beautiful show plants, you most likely have found a plant that's now your favorite.

Perhaps it's an *Episcia*, or a *Streptocarpus*, or *Columnnea*. These are some of the more popular Gesneriads and they usually predominate at shows. But there are many other plants in this family that are equally easy to grow and are worthy of your consideration. In this article, I will tell you about a few, most of which I have had or presently have in my collection.

Alsobia

Alsobia
'Dianthiflora'
(Species)



Alsobia
'San Miguel'
(Hybrid)

Alsobias have rather small leaves and white or light-colored flowers. One of the distinctive features and the reason most people find them attractive is the fringed blossom edge. Some have speckled flowers, as does 'San Miguel.' They prefer a warm climate but can tolerate cooler temperatures. They lend themselves to hanging baskets. Alsobias are native to Mexico and Guatemala.

Diastema



Diastema 'Vexans'

Close-up
of Blossom



Diastemas are from mountainous regions of Central and South America. They prefer temperatures ranging from about 55° to 75°. They are low-growing, compact plants and, as you can see, have beautiful blossoms. They are scaly-rhizomed and go into a short period of dormancy after producing their blossoms.

Niphaea

Niphaea
'Oblonga'



Niphaea is a very small genus. As you can see in the photo, the white flowers stand out against the lovely green foliage. Niphaea is native to Mexico and Guatemala, is rhizomatous and is not cold tolerant.

Streptocarpus subgenus *Streptocarpella*



Streptocarpella Concord Blue

While *Streptocarpus* is being more widely grown, its subgenus *Streptocarpella* is not often seen in African violet shows. As the picture reflects, it is a multiple branched, shrubby appearing plant, this one with blue flowers. There are many species, some of which are found in Tanzania, Kenya and a few other locations in Central and West Africa, and others are found in Madagascar.

Streptocarpella are perfect for hanging baskets and can tolerate temperatures as low as 50 degrees.

This will give you an idea of what's available in the gesneriad world. You can find many others of the lesser known gesneriads on the Gesneriad Reference Web. These are just a few of my favorites. I hope you'll try growing some!

Upcoming Events

May 6, 2023 – Moonlight African Violet and Gesneriad Society, Fort Worth, TX, Show & Plant Sale, "Violets are Magical." Hours: 9 am to 5 pm. Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76107. Information: Anne McBurnett, Club email: amcburnett@komatsu-inc.com. Club website: <https://www.facebook.com/moonlightav>

May 6, 2023 – African Violet Council of Florida Spring Plant Sale, 9 am to 3 pm, Beardall Senior Center, 800 Delaney Avenue, Orlando, FL 32801. Africanvioletcouncilofflorida.club – [Facebook: AVCFL](#)

May 28 – June 4, 2023, AVSA Convention, "Where It All Began," Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, 165 Courtland Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30303.

July 3-8, 2023, The Gesneriad Society's 2023 Convention, "Virginia is for Gesneriad Lovers," The Westin Richmond, 6631 W. Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia.

October 28, 2023 – Louisiana Lagniappe AVS, Baton Rouge, LA, Fall show and sale, "A Violet Spooktacular." Baton Rouge Garden Center, 7950 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

Girl Foliage: Deeply scalloped leaves, usually rounded or heart-shaped with white to yellow markings at the base of each leaf. These markings can extend to the leaf blades and edges of the leaf.

AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges, p.15.

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Individual	\$15.00 year
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State _____ ZIP+4 _____

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Mail application or a copy with check payable to Dixie AVS to:
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 287 Fennel Way, SW
 Atlanta, GA 30331
johnniepearl@comcast.net



'Gorgeous by Optimara



**Tampa AVS Show, "Violet Invasion"
February 24-25, 2023, Tampa, FL
Celeste Christman, Show Chair**

Best in Show Horticulture, Best Standard "Ma's Pink Beetles;" Best AVSA Standard Collection: "Ma's Arctic Sky," "Ma's Debutante," "Ma's Pink Beetles;" Best DAVS Standard Collection: "Buckeye Exotic Dancer," Cajun's Fascinating Fury," "Suncoast Lavender Silk;" Best Semiminiature, "California Sunset" – **won by Sandi Soto**

Best Species, "S. 5b clone grotei Silvert," **won by Jim Matula.**

Best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection: "Orchard's Wonder Twin," "Orchard's Bumble Magnet," "Shirl's Hawaiian Lei," **won by Glenn Shelton**

2nd Best in Show, "RS-Bell Ringing;" 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: "Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler," Frozen in Time," "Hunter's Tranquility;" 2nd Best DAVS Standard Collection: "Hunter's Tranquility," Suncoast Lavender Silk," "Buckeye Seductress;" Best in Show Design, Best Interpretive **Flower Design**, "Buried Treasure" and Best Interpretive **Plant Design**, "Floats and Marching Bands;" 2nd Best Design, "Dress Like a Pirate;" Best Container Garden -- Best Natural Garden, Best Terrarium, Best Dish Garden; Horticulture Sweepstakes (21 blue ribbons); Design Sweepstakes (10 blue ribbons); Best Gesneriad, Episcia 'Pink Acajou,' **won by Mary Lou Harden**

Little
Cheyenne
by
Optimara



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From the Editor. . .Mary Lou Harden
mlhard@verizon.net

I'm happy to send you this second quarter 2023 issue of The Dixie News. In this issue you'll find out what's been happening in many of our local affiliates. Our hope is that, by learning what other clubs are doing, it will give you ideas and information that will help you as you're planning programs and events for your own club.

As Betty Ferguson wrote in her President's Message, Dixie WILL have a show at a date yet to be determined in the Fall. Michael Jackson is working with the Birmingham Botanical Gardens and also with Robbie McMeel, Dixie's interim Convention Director. Since the Botanical Gardens receives requests to use their facilities from many different groups, it's understandable that it does take time to work out the details. Hopefully we'll have a date soon and you can be sure that we'll send a notice just as soon as we receive the information.

Thanks to everyone who has furnished articles, photos and news for this issue. As I've previously said, your newsletter is truly a team effort and EVERY member of the team is important! And—we're always looking for helpful articles about growing and showing African violets and their cousins, so don't hesitate to share with us!

Best wishes to all our members and affiliates for successful growing and showing!

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

February Issue – January 15
May Issue – April 15
August – July 15
November – October 15



Anika
 by Optimara

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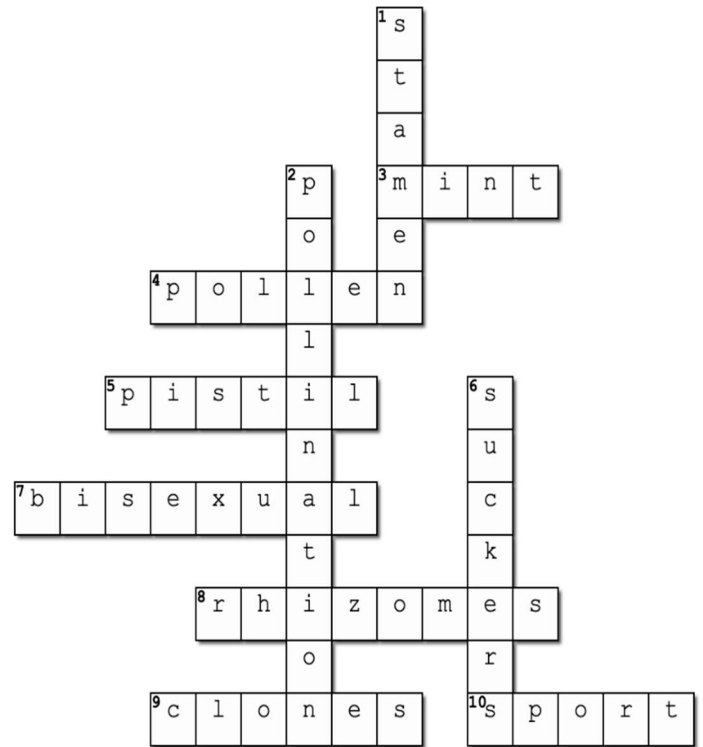


Integrity

Photo by AVA of Australia

**Gesneriad Birds and Bees
Trivia Quiz ANSWERS**

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Across

- 3. mint**
- 4. pollen**
- 5. pistil**
- 7. bisexual**
- 8. rhizomes**
- 9. clones**
- 10. sport**

Down

- 1. stamen**
- 2. pollination**
- 6. suckers**



Rob's Fuddy Duddy
AVA of Australia



Rob's Boolaroo
by Pamela VanDurme